

HOW THE NATIONALISTS PROPOSE TO TREAT THE PROTESTANTS OF ULSTER AND THE ULSTER LINEN TRADE.

This is what Mr. Davitt told the Interviewer of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, on May 12, when asked how he proposed to deal with the question of Ulster :

“ Leave them alone to us,” he said, “ and we will make short work of those gentry. They are not Irish, they are only English and Scotch who are settled among us, and it is preposterous that they should be allowed to dictate to Irishmen how Ireland should be governed.”

ENGLISHMEN, WILL YOU LEAVE THESE MEN
WHO ARE “ ONLY ENGLISH AND SCOTCH ”
TO SUCH TENDER MERCIES ?

The English and Scotch in Ulster are the men who have made the great city of Belfast, and have built up that linen industry which has added so immensely to the prosperity of Ireland, and has made the looms of Ulster famous throughout the world.

How do the Irish appreciate those who have thus benefited and enriched Ireland ?

They envy and they hate them. If Home Rule is granted their first thought will be to be revenged upon the Ulster linen trade.

This is what was said on the subject in the *Belfast Morning News*, a paper belonging to Mr. Gray, a leading member of the Nationalist Party :

“ Suppress Orange linen, and you manumit Ulster. Break the power of the ‘ linenites,’ and the ‘ Loyalists ’ are, if not killed, scotched.”—*December 29th*, 1884.

“The linen trade has been a scourge, and not a blessing, to Ulster. This province is by far the poorest of the four, except Connaught, and even it tops Ulster in many respects. This Mr. T. Galloway Rigg, of Castle Douglas, has proved with force, finish, and finality in two admirable letters to the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*. . . . Mr. Rigg says truly that ‘the soil of Ulster is hilly and mountainous throughout, whereas Leinster, Munster, and Connaught (Eastern) are as flat as a bowling-green.’ But he does not mention what intensified the sterility of the province, what added to the ruggedness of hill and mountain, what accentuated the inhospitality of bog and morass—the existence of the linen trade. But for the linen trade Ulster could never have been rack-rented as it was and as it continues to be. But for the linen trade the factitious value of over 25 per cent. beyond that imposed on the land of the fertile provinces could never have been laid on arid Ulster by Griffith. ‘Up the heathery mountain, down the rustling glen,’ the fair linen has laid its foul mark in impossible rents; for lint and loom and linen, not the land, paid the rent. But for the stone of flax, the hank of yarn, the web of linen, the grinding landlord exactions which have kept Ulster poor could not have been put in force. . . . That’s the reward Ulster gained by its unswerving, blind devotion to linen, loyalty, and landlordism. The trio are identical, for ‘the linen trade of Ulster is solidly Orange,’ and, ‘as an interest, and a powerful interest, is the worst, most vicious, and most formidable enemy of the Irish people.’ . . . The whole weight of the linen trade, as a body, was ever thrown into the scale of the enemies and oppressors of the people.”—*January 5th, 1885.*

Englishmen and Scotchmen, think what is the meaning of this, and what will follow the destruction of the Ulster linen trade here advocated.

Thousands of law-abiding and industrious working men and their families, who, up till now, have been earning an honest livelihood, will be reduced to ruin and beggary; and for what fault? **They have worked at the linen trade! They are “only English and Scotch”!**